

From: Wade
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hi,

I have been following the Microsoft hearings for the past few years and the proposed settlement would do nothing to curb the activities of the software giant. In fact, parts of the proposed settlement would actually help Microsoft ensure their market dominance. This is neither fair to competition or in the interest of the antitrust laws.

Microsoft has proven time and time again that they cannot conduct themselves in a law-abiding and ethical manner, for which they must be punished for. They need to realize that they cannot do anything they wish because they own the largest market share. There are several alternative operating systems that millions of people use everyday which deserve to be used with full confidence that they will work with the rest of the computing world. If Microsoft had their way everyone would be forced to use their products without being given a choice.

One example of this is their recent lobbying to get the Music industry to use the Microsoft Media Player file format for all audio CDs. This would ensure everyone who buys a CD would install the Media Player application on their computer, forcing out competing products. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the current AIFF audio file format that CDs come in today, which is an open format that hundreds of applications support, not a proprietary format that only Microsoft supports.

There are literally hundreds of cases like this where Microsoft uses their market dominance to ensure their competition is unfairly stifled. Please make Microsoft accountable for their illegal actions and police them in the future, since they are obviously unable to do it themselves.

Wade C